



## Minnesota Department of Transportation

### Office of Land Management

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March 11, 2013

Bill Storm, State Permit Manager  
Minnesota Office of Energy Security  
85 7th Place East, Suite 500  
St. Paul, MN 55101

RE: In the Matter of the Application of Minnesota Power for a Route Permit for the 39 Line 115 kV High Voltage Transmission Line (HVTL) Project in St. Louis County  
PUC Docket Number: E015/TL-12-1123

Dear Mr. Storm,

On February 4<sup>th</sup>, 2013, the Minnesota Department of Commerce Energy Facility Permitting issued a Notice of Public Information and Scoping meeting and a request for public comment on the scope of the environmental assessment (EA) relating to the route permit application by Minnesota Power for a Route Permit for the 39 Line 115kV High Voltage Transmission Line (HVTL) Project in St. Louis County. The Minnesota Department of Transportation (MnDOT) has reviewed the application regarding the proposed project and submits the following comments in response to the Notice.

MnDOT appreciates the opportunity to comment on the scope of the EA. MnDOT's fundamental interest is to ensure that the EA identifies and quantifies, to the extent possible, any impacts the proposed high voltage transmission line (HVTL) may have on the safety of the transportation system, the effectiveness of the operations or maintenance of the state trunk highway system and any additional costs that may be imposed on the state trunk highway fund as a result of the location of the proposed HVTL.

MnDOT has reviewed the route permit application. At this time, it appears that the project area does not directly abut a state trunk highway. MnDOT requests that our agency be made aware of

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any changes to the proposed HVTL that may make the project area close enough to occupy a portion of current MnDOT right-of-way.

Any HVTL construction work, including delivery or storage of structures, materials or equipment that may affect MnDOT right of way is of concern such that MnDOT should be involved in planning and coordinating such activities. If work is required within MnDOT right-of-way for temporary or permanent access, please coordinate with Wayne Scheer, District 1 Permits at 218-725-2780 or at [Wayne.Scheer@state.mn.us](mailto:Wayne.Scheer@state.mn.us).

We appreciate the opportunity to comment.

Sincerely,



Stacy Kotch

Utility Transmission Route Coordinator  
Minnesota Department of Transportation

cc: Wayne Scheer – District 1 Permits

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